

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, April 22. 1708.

I Touch'd in my Last the miserable Contradiſtions, Absurdities and Inconsistencies which Our Divisions in this Nation have led us into : I touch'd them in the Gross only, and left them there : I came at last to enquire a little into the Consequences of them : I must touch at a few, and I begin at the QUEEN, for I love to have a good Voucher.

Her Majesty in Her Speech at the Closing the Parliament, tells them, That certainly *some Body must strangely have misrepresented Her Affairs, &c.* See Queen's Speech to the Parliament.

No doubt our Weakness Here, our Nakedness in *Scotland*, the Dissatisfactions of the People about the Union, &c. have all been magnify'd to the *French King*, to

prompt him to such an Attempt as this. Whether they have cheated him most or us most, will appear in the Issue : But their Mischievous Design is not the less visible, nor the Fatal Consequences of Misrepresentations less effectual.

I have often been shewing the Danger and Mischief of Misrepresentations to every Part of our Affairs ; and I cannot have a greater Proof of it than at this Time, when the Consequences have been first the bringing us into a Condition to be invaded, and then bringing an Invader upon us. To say this Invasion has been of no Consequence, has done us no Harm, but rather has done us a Service, tho' it be true in Fact, and I shall speak to that hereafter ; yet in the present Case, *that is to say nothing.*

If you make a Jest of Foreign Invasions, and think them of no consequence in general, you are no People for me to talk to, no nor for any body else to talk to neither; and such People need no other Answer, than to desire them to state the Case to themselves, if they know how, of what had been the Case in *Scotland*, if so be the *French*, contemptible as they were, had landed their Forces at *Leith* as they design'd. I shall not enter here into a long Inquiry about Particulars, what Mischiefs they would have done, who would or would not have joyn'd them; it is but too obvious they had a Party to joyn them, and who would have put their Hands forwardly enough to the Ruin of their Native Country.

I have taken pains enough to convince the Nation of their Mistakes about the Kirk-Party joyning them; and have shown you, *I hope effectually*, That the Clamour of that was rais'd principally to cover the real Design and real Party that all along design'd it — and therefore I much wonder at a Person of Honour's mistaking me, when I printed a Letter, which says, The North are generally Jacobites, as if it meant the North of *Britain*; whereas it is evident, I think, it is meant of the Northern Highlands of *Scotland*, of whom the Truth is but too plain; and I say this purely to obviate any such Objection, as founded meerly upon a Misunderstanding.

But now, Gentlemen, pray take me right; I never suggested to you, that there was not a Party in *Scotland*, *ay*, and in *England* too, that were ready to joyn with a *French* Invasion, and forward to assist a *Papist* Pretender; indeed, you very much mistook me if you thought so, and the Address of the House of Lords on that occasion is very remarkable to this purpose, *viz.* That *France* could never have been brought to an Attempt of that Nature with so contemptible a force, if they had not receiv'd Encouragement and Invitations to it, from some of Her Majesty's Subjects.

And what can these Encouragements be? — They can be but of Two sorts

1. Misrepresentations of our Circumstances at Home.

2. Promises of Personal Assistance.

As to the last of these, I make no Question but they are in a Method of being brought to light; and as the Government has laid their Fingers upon some of the most probable Instruments, so it cannot be long before they may come to a more perfect Illumination. I shall not enter farther into Particulars, let that work; I shall prompt no Mans Fate, I have always avoided loading the Miserable.

But as to the first of these, I mean, misrepresenting our Circumstances, it has such a complication of Treacheries and unnatural Mischiefs in it, that I cannot but lay it a little before you to consider of.

It consists of two Parts. 1. Misrepresenting the Publick Affairs to one another; And 2. To our Enemies: First, to one another, and this is the Effect of that Spirit of Disaffection, I have been so long struggling with in this Paper, and I must tell you, has so many unhappy Parts, and is so circumstanced, that I cannot pretend to give you the full Description of it; I shall first give you a taste of the Thing it self, and come to the Persons afterward.

The Thing consists of many Parts, but particularly the Diligence of a Party here, who continually put false Glosses, and false Constructions upon our Publick Affairs, magnifie our Losses, descant upon Mismanagements, and exalt our Enemies.

And shall I venture a Word more here, to you Gentlemen, that make such a noise of Mismanagements; Perhaps you do make your Observations, in order to stir up the Nation to have them amended; I am sure, it is the most favourable Construction I can put upon your Actions; perhaps noble Speeches made long and mournfully, were with a meer design to awaken us, and have honest Men employ'd, tho' there is much room to doubt all this; but Gentlemen, Gentlemen, have you consider'd that these Things are the Foundation our Enemies have built on; have you seen yet whose Drudgery you have been doing, whose Journey-men you have been; have not a Party of Men taken the Word from your Mouths, quoted your Speeches, and bought up

up your Printed Papers, and diligently improv'd your Suggestions, to possess the World with a Belief, that our Councils were confus'd, our Circumstances low and reduc'd, and our Affairs desperate?—Upon your Indiscretion, *to call it no worse*, GOD forgive you, if it has been your Design; I say, upon your Indiscretion has all this Fabrick of Rebellion and Invasion been built; and now you may look back and see what you have been doing, and upon what Work you have been, I hope involuntarily, employ'd about; it cannot but be an occasion of Thought to you, if you have any regard to your Native Countries Peace.—To reflect, on your having given the Enemy such a Plan of our Circumstances, however wrong, that has encourag'd them to insult us in such a manner as you see has hapn'd.

And take this along with you also, that Two Things have follow'd.

First, That if the *French*, by the concurring Blessing of GOD, upon a Vigilant and Celerous Application have been disappointed — The Nation owes very little to your Assistance in it, who gave two Hands to bring it on, but never so much as put in

YOUR THUMB as *Gravesend* to resist the Current.

Secondly, That the happy diligence of the Government, has put a Negative upon all the noble Epithets, of Desperate, Despicable, Ruin'd, Miserable, &c. put upon our Circumstances, by these unhappy Representatives of the Nations Condition; and you see now, that with all these mournful Representations, the Government appear'd both at Sea and on Shore in a posture, to give both the *French* and their High-Flying Friends a handsom Reception, such as should make them for ever-cautious of listening to Misrepresentations; but of this hereafter.

But I cannot end this, with applauding a Great Persons Prescience of Things, amounting in my Opinion, to little less than Prophesie, who, when he first advanced his most Empharical Notions, began with this Oracular Prediction, That it would **STIGNIFY NOTHING**; *Experto Crede Roberto*, it appears it has signified Nothing indeed, and so I hope will issue all the endeavours of those that daily disturb our Peace, and excite our Enemies by Misrepresentations.

MISCELLANEA.

I Endeavour'd in my last, to give you a Sketch of the Advantage of High-Flying to the Nation.—And really, Gentlemen, let me tell you, we have more to thank the High Flyers for than you are aware of, we are indeed consequentially oblig'd to them a great many ways.

I have already paid Homage to them for their State-Management, and their Succession-Precipitations, by which they Dethroned themselves, as necessarily as Fire ascends; and had they not Praised, their Native Blindness, must have seen it; when their Project of making Her Majesty Tenant for Life to the Crown, and having the Pretender be next Oars, had the Natural Consequences in it if it had succeeded, that the **QUEEN** must acknowledge her self an

Usurper, and possess the Crown by Concession from, as they termed him, her Brother; could any Men in their Sences but have seen, that this must of necessity alarm every Body, that had but the least respect for the Safety of Her Majesties Life, when it was apparent, they had nothing to do, but to make that Life as short an Incumbance as possible?

Well, I have given them due Praises for this piece of Policy, I have also recogniz'd their Tacking Project, and the kindness they have shewn in it to the Dissenters, who by that Precipitation they effectually sav'd from the mischiefs of an Occasional Bill.

I might go on to acknowledge to them the Care they took of the Union by the most nicely politrick High-flying Madness
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imaginable; how their Tumults, their Memorials, and their abundant Threatnings were as so many Spectacles to the People to help their Eye-sight, and put-forward their Illuminations; how they made the Union appear every Day more and more absolutely necessary, and convinc'd the Nobility of *Scotland* to that degree of the approaching Ruin of their Country, by the eminent Mischiefs they threaten'd them with, that even those Great Men that were to lose Places and Honours and Profits by the Union were the most zealous and forward to carry it on.

And now Gentlemen, by like Precipitations we have this Invasion to thank them for; and much of the Disappointment of the *French* will lie at their Doors; and no doubt in time his most Christian Majesty will thank them for it, at least it will encourage him to venture upon their Judgments again.

Who can doubt but the *French* King had Information from them of our Circumstances being desperate and despicable; that our Fleet was in no condition to put to Sea to interrupt their Expedition; that it was impossible to rig out a Fleet in *England* against this Design in any tolerable time to prevent it—: That the naked Condition of *Scotland*, ay, and of *England* too, was in like manner misrepresented as to Land-Forces; and that they might have at least three Months time to settle themselves there, before any thing of Troops could be brought together to oppose them; and that in that time they should either by Force or Fraud reduce all *Scotland*.

And have you cheated your Ally the *French* King, Gentlemen High-flyers? so you have assisted us your truest Friends, the Whigs; you have help'd us to more Spectacles than any body living could have furnish'd us with besides; and if either our Navy be any more backward, or our Country naked, our disaffected Jacobite Brethren let loose to practise upon the Nation any more, we acknowledge it is not your Faults, but that you have sufficiently hinted to us our Danger, honestly sounded the Alarm, and awaken'd us: We give you *Humble Praise*, Gentlemen, and desire

to make our constant Acknowledgments to you all.

I omit the mean and insignificant Jingle of your Pamphleteers and Inferior Pulpiters, who on all hands chimed in with this General Assistance given us by your Party: I omit the necessary Praises due to that Dignified Gentleman in the North, who declared, That notwithstanding all the QUEEN or Parliament had said or done about the Safety of the Church of *England*, she was really in as much danger as Mr. *Greg* was at that time in danger of the Gallows. Now if I should say this Gentleman believes the Church of *England* under a legal Sentence of Death, I think I should make no wrong Consequence; but it being so very obliging to the Church, I leave them to pass their Judgment of it for me.

I doubt not but the Gentlemen of the High Church will go on upon all Occasions to merit our Praises and Acknowledgment, and by their usual Madness precipitate themselves and their Cause; till by the Consequence of the Thing the Nation obtains perfect Illumination, the only thing now wanting to a perfect Deliverance; and I shall not fail to acknowledge their Assistance to us in it upon all Occasions.

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